CIDAC
Centro de Documentação
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Draft statement to be issued jointly by organisations in western Europe:

IMPOSE AN ARMS EMBARO ON INDONESIA! HALT THE NEW OFFENSIVE IN EAST TIMOR!

The people of East Timor who have for nearly eight years been the victims of a genocidal war of annexation by Indonesia, are today engulfed in renewed all-out warfare. At least 200,000 crack Indonesian troops have launched a new invasion of their country. OV10 Broncos supplied by the USA are once again operating in East Timor; these are the aircraft which wrought such havoc in 1977 and 1978, killing tens of thousands and destroying food production, thus causing tens of thousands more deaths from starvation and disease. US-supplied Hercules transport planes are ferrying in troops, helicopters supplied by west European countries are transporting heavy military equipment manufactured in western countries.

The military have tightened their grip on East Timor: all Indonesian civilians have been evacuated from East Timor, the puppet Timorese governor has been removed, mass arrests have taken place, a dusk-to-dawn curfew is in force, the International Red Cross which has been running a food-relief programme has been required to leave the country. The Indonesian Armed Forces have been set the task of annihilating the Fretilin resistance movement, which is supported by the entire people, before the end of September.

The war of annexation which has been in progress since the first Indonesian invasion in 1975 could not have been launched or continued without the support of military equipment supplied by many western countries. Arms supplies from the West have been greatly stepped up since 1975 and have included frigates and corvettes, submarines, counter-insurgency aircraft, transport planes, armoured vehicles, machine-guns and communications equipment. The very governments that licence and finance these exports openly admit that no act of self-determination has taken place in East Timor. They know that Indonesia's 'integration' of East Timor is totally illegal and fundamentally conflicts with the wishes of the people of East Timor. Moreover, the UN does not accept the annexation and continues to adopt annual resolutions upholding the right of the Timorese people to self-determination.

The people of East Timor are engaged in a life-and-death struggle to uphold their right to independence. Every effort must be made to alert public opinion in western Europe of the catastrophe now engulfing East Timor. Western governments must take action to stop this bloodshed by:

- imposing an arms embargo on Indonesia without delay;
- halting economic support for Indonesia until the offensive is stopped;
- calling on the UN Secretary-General to press Indonesia to halt the offensive.

Stop arms exports to Indonesia! Suspend economic aid to Indonesian aggressors!

Support the people of East Timor!